

ACTION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE - AUGUST 18, 1959

The Committee today approved S. 2162, with a Committee amendment, to provide for a health benefits program for Federal employees.

The Committee amendment replaces the Senate bill with a Committee bill. The Committee bill will establish a Government-wide Federal employees health benefits program providing generally for a 50 percent Government contribution, subject to minimums of \$1.25 bi-weekly for an individual policy and \$3.00 bi-weekly for a family policy.

The total cost of the bill is estimated at \$214,000,000 annually, to be shared by the Government and the employees.

Under the Committee bill 4 proposed basic health plans are authorized:

1. A service benefits plan similar to the services performed by Blue Cross - Blue Shield;
2. An indemnity benefit plan, one underwritten by insurance companies;
3. Employee organization plans which will preserve employee organization health plans presently in operation, covering an estimated 300,000 persons; and
4. A comprehensive medical plan similar to Group Health Association of Washington, D. C. and Group Health Insurance of New York.

The bill places the responsibility in the Civil Service Commission for development of the programs, making the contracts, and approving existing plans.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO ORDERED FAVORABLY REPORTED THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

H. R. 7379, a bill to amend the Act of July 27, 1956, with respect to the detention of mail for temporary periods in the public interest, and for other purposes.

H. R. 5571, a bill to exempt regular and classified substitute employees in post offices of the 1st, 2d, and 3d classes from residence requirements governing appointment and service of postmasters at post offices to which such employees are assigned.

THE FOLLOWING SUBCOMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED:

H. R. 3024, to amend the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955
H. R. 7538 with respect to the position descriptions and salary levels of mail handlers, and for other purposes.

MR. LESINSKI, Chairman

MRS. GRANAHAN

MR. CORBETT